

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated December 6, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. The indication that claims 6-8 and 16-18 contain allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In response thereto, the subject matter of claim 16 has been incorporated into independent claim 13, to thereby place claims 13, 15, 17 and 18 in allowable form.

Claims 1, 3, 9-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by JP 56-036612. In addition, claims 1, 3-5, 9-13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the Japanese Patent Publication in view of the prior art described in the specification. To clarify one of the distinctions between the invention and the Japanese Patent Publication, claim 1 now recites that the dichroic material is "photochemically stable dichroic absorber." In contrast, according to its English-language abstract, the Japanese Patent Publication discloses a material in which "polarization power is produced by the selective decoloring reaction with selective light absorption." In other words, a film of photochemically sensitive material is provided, and the polarizing material is formed by a photochemical reaction. Thus, it can be appreciated that the material disclosed in the Japanese Patent Publication is not photochemically stable. It is respectfully submitted that the Japanese Patent Publication does not anticipate, nor otherwise suggest, the subject matter of pending claim 1, nor its dependent claims, whether considered by itself or in view of the prior art discussed in the specification.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the grounds that they were considered to be anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,024,850 ("Broer et al.").

According to the teachings of this patent, an ordered structure is obtained through the application of a magnetic or electric field. See, for example, column 6, lines 59-68, and column 9, lines 47-59. While the Broer et al. patent also refers to exposing the material to radiation, this exposure is solely for the purpose of polymerization, and not for forming an ordered structure.

In contrast, claim 1 recites the step of "exposing said layer to activating light illumination to provide an ordered structure with a distinguished absorption axis." Thus, the ordered structure is formed by exposure to an activating light, rather than an applied magnetic or electric field. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Broer et al. patent does not anticipate the subject matter of claim 1, nor any of its dependent claims.

Pursuant to the Examiner's request, a copy of the publication cited on page 2 of the application is being provided herewith.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Amendment

Marked-up Claims

1. (Amended) A method of forming a polarizing material comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a layer of a [dichroic material] photochemically stable dichroic absorber on a substrate, and
- (b) exposing said layer to activating light illumination to provide an ordered structure with a distinguished absorption axis.

13. (Amended) A polarizing material comprising a layer of a photochemically stable dichroic absorber formed within a matrix of polymeric material selected from the group consisting of: polyimide, polyethylene, cellulose acetate, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polyester, polyacrylonitrile, polyacetal, polyacrylamide, polybutadiene, polyvinylalcohol, polymethylmethacrylate, and polyvinylcinnamate.